

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computerized method for communicating information to service personnel for on-site servicing of a selected railroad locomotive from a group of generally similar locomotives, with said selected locomotive being made up of a plurality of systems and subject to unique system configurations and servicing requirements~~managing supply of replacement parts used for servicing a piece of equipment~~, said method comprising:

providing a first database comprising detailed system configuration data regarding a selected railroad locomotive;

providing a second database of~~comprising~~ parts supply data indicative of availability of replacement parts for servicing the group of generally similar locomotives;

providing a respective identifier for uniquely identifying the selected locomotive from among the group of generally similar locomotives;

providing an input/output device at a service site in communication with the first and second databases;

accessing the first database through the input/output device by communicating to said first database information indicative of the respective identifier for the selected locomotive through the input/output device;

generating a computer-readable order for parts using the detailed system configuration data in said first database regarding the selected railroad locomotive, with said order identifying respective parts and quantity thereof to be made available for said service site for servicing the selected locomotive;

~~transmitting the order from the service site to said second database a computer-readable order, wherein said order is configured to identify respective parts and quantity thereof to be made available for said service site;~~

processing said order relative to the data stored in the second database to determine availability of the parts identified in the order for servicing the selected locomotive;

gathering replacement parts for the service site; and
updating said second database with data relating to these log transactions
~~that occur in connection with said~~ replacement parts ordered for the service site.

2. (ORIGINAL) The computerized method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting a confirmation message to the service site indicating availability of the parts identified in the order and expected delivery date therefor.

3. (ORIGINAL) The computerized method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting a message to the service site indicative of part unavailability when the order identifies parts not presently available, wherein said message includes respective links indicative of options regarding an unavailable part.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computerized method of claim 23 wherein the respective links indicate substitute parts for the unavailable part.

5. (ORIGINAL) The computerized method of claim 3 wherein the respective links indicate alternative suppliers for an unavailable part.

6. (ORIGINAL) The computerized method of claim 1 wherein said updating step comprises scanning a code associated with a part being ordered.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computerized method of claim 6 wherein upon scanning the code associated with the part being ordered, a Web page is provided to appropriate supply personnel, wherein said Web page includes a respective data field requesting data ~~to be filled by said personnel to log a transaction~~ for that part.

8. (ORIGINAL) The computerized method of claim 7 wherein the data field is selected from the group comprising a part sale, part return, and part exchange.

9. (ORIGINAL) The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the order includes a part identifier selected from the group comprising part name, part number, part description and visual representation thereof.

10. (ORIGINAL) The computerized method of claim 9 wherein the order is processed relative to the data stored in the database upon finding a match for the part identifier in the order.

11. (ORIGINAL) The computerized method of claim 10 wherein, in the absence of an exact match for the part identifier, suggesting potential matches for the part identifier in the order.

12. (ORIGINAL) The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the order further includes an account identifier and wherein upon fulfillment of that order, costs associated with that order are charged against that account.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computerized method of claim 1 wherein in the event a part is no longer available ~~manufactured~~, transmitting a message to the service site suggesting a superseding replacement kit for servicing a respective assembly.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for communicating information to service personnel for on-site servicing of a selected railroad locomotive from a group of generally similar locomotives, with said selected locomotive being made up of a plurality of systems and subject to unique system configurations and servicing requirements ~~managing supply of replacement parts used for servicing a piece of equipment~~, said system comprising:

a first database comprising detailed system configuration data regarding a selected railroad locomotive;

a second database comprising parts supply data indicative of availability of replacement parts for servicing the group of generally similar locomotives;

an input/output device at a service site in communication with the first and second databases, said device configured to access the first database by communicating to said first database information indicative of the respective identifier for the selected locomotive, said device further configured to generate a computer-readable order for parts using the detailed system configuration data in said first database regarding the selected railroad locomotive, with said order identifying respective parts and quantity thereof to be made available for said service site for servicing the selected locomotive;
~~transmit from the service site to said database a computer-readable order over a communications network, wherein said order allows to identify respective parts and quantity thereof to be made available for said service site;~~

a processor configured to process said order relative to the data stored in the second database to determine availability of the parts identified in the order for servicing the selected locomotive; and

an update module in said database to log data relating to the replacement parts ordered for the service site;
~~transactions in the second database that occur in connection with said replacement parts for the service site.~~

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 14 wherein said update module is coupled to a scanner configured to scan a code associated with a part being ordered when the scanner and/or part are placed proximate to one another ~~by a supply personnel.~~